

METALLOTHERAPY—HYSTERIA CURED BY ALUMINIUM.—Drs. V. Burq and J. Moricourt report the history of a very obstinate case of hysteria in a girl twenty years of age. She had been treated by a number of eminent professors, including Charcot and Vigouroux, and had experienced a kind of medical Odyssey around Paris. She had frequent hysterical attacks, a very complete hemi-anæsthesia, with trophic skin troubles. After trying various metals, she was given aluminium externally and internally (in the form of the sulphate), with the result of rapid improvement and cure.—*Gazette des hôpitaux*, June 26, 1883.

TREATMENT OF CEREBRAL HYPERÆMIA AND MENINGITIS BY CUTANEOUS REVULSION.—The results of Dr. Vovard's method of treating meningitis lend additional interest to the similar but independent observations of Baunscheidt and Max Buch. The latter person slightly scarifies the scalp and then rubs in a mixture of equal parts of oil of turpentine and croton oil. By this procedure he obtained cure or great relief in seven cases of chronic cerebral hyperæmia and meningitis, the symptoms being vertigo, headache, visual and motor disturbances, etc.

Buch considers it established that cutaneous excitation of a proper degree of intensity causes increased temperature of the scalp, with lower temperature and vascular constriction of the meningeal vessels.—*Archiv. f. Psych. u. Nervenk.*, xx, 1.

THE USE OF THE MOXA IN CHRONIC AFFECTIONS OF THE SPINAL CORD.—Dr. D. H. Cullimore thinks that peculiar advantages belong to the moxa in the treatment of various forms of sclerosis and chronic myelitis. He reports cases of descending sclerosis, traumatic myelitis, and poliomyelitis, where the moxa was applied twice a week with excellent results. The form of moxa which he uses consists of a piece of brown paper about fifteen inches long and four broad. This is saturated in a solution of nitrate of potash, 3 j. to 3 j. of water. A stronger solution, or one of chlorate potash, is not advisable, as it is liable to burn with a flame, which should be avoided. This paper is dried and rolled into a cylinder, and is then ready for application. It resembles a short cigar without the tapering ends. To apply it, one end is set on fire and the other placed on the skin in the vicinity of the subjacent disease. The neighboring parts should be protected with alum paper with a central hole, while the degree of heat can be moderated to any degree by the moxa-holder or forceps, and freshened if necessary by blowing upon it. Dr. C. always removes it before the burning part comes in immediate contact with the skin. In this way no scar or sore is ever produced, and it can be reapplied as often as necessary.

The author tries to show on theoretical grounds why the moxa may be superior to other counter-irritants, but he hardly succeeds

in his demonstration; neither is his clinical evidence of a very conclusive character.—*Medical Press and Circ.*, June 6, 1883.

CHOREA TREATED BY CONIUM.—At the Leeds General Infirmary, several cases of chorea have been treated by large doses of conium. It was found:

1. That the drug, to be of any service, must be given in large doses, frequently repeated.

2. That it acted well in the violent cases where the movements were so great as to endanger life, and where chloral and morphia were ineffectual.

3. That, owing to the variability in strength of the preparation, care must be taken in giving the large doses.

It does not appear from the records given that chloral was very thoroughly tried. The value of conium, however, has been established by American observers.—*Lancet*, May 26, 1883.

BROMIDE OF ETHYL IN SOME FUNCTIONAL NERVOUS DISEASES.—Berger, of Breslau, reports the results of his experiments with bromide of ethyl (C_2H_5Br). He states that repeated daily inhalations of twenty to forty drops, in facial neuralgias, in typical migraine, and in many forms of headache, have relieved the pains when other drugs had failed. He had also observed good effects in neurasthenia (one to two grammes two to three times daily), in hysteria major, finally in conditions of psychical exaltation. In epilepsy, it had done little good.

It is a question whether chloroform would not do all that Berger thus claims for bromide of ethyl.—*Bresl. ärztl. Zeitschr.*, No. 8, 1883.

EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF NITRATE OF SILVER IN NEURALGIA AND GOUTY JOINTS.—B. Fronmüller speaks highly of this well-known method of counter-irritation. He moistens the skin over the point of tenderness in a case of neuralgia, rubs the surface with a stick of the nitrate for half a minute, then applies a bandage of salicylic cotton.—*Memorabil.*, No. 1, 1883.

THE THERAPEUTIC USES OF BROMIDE OF CAMPHOR.—In a critical review of this subject, the writer enumerates the various nervous disturbances in which bromide of camphor had been tried. These are chorea, eclampsia, alcoholic tremor, insomnia, epilepsy, hysteria, and various forms of sexual disturbance. It appears that in no single disease has the camphor bromide done more than give "promising" results. That it can do any thing more than the other bromides and camphor alone can do is improbable.—*Le progrès médical*, May 12, 1883.